

Item \_\_\_\_\_

Prepared by Craig E. Willis

Approved by CEW

**RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF SHELBY COUNTY  
URGING THE CREATION A JOINT CITY / COUNTY TASK FORCE FOR THE  
PURPOSE OF IDENTIFYING, EVALUATING AND RECOMMENDING EFFECTIVE  
SHORT AND LONG-TERM STRATEGIES, TOOLS AND PUBLIC POLICY  
SOLUTIONS FOR INCREASING INNER CITY DEVELOPMENT,  
REDEVELOPMENT, EMPLOYMENT, REVITALIZATION AND ECONOMIC  
ACTIVITY FOR REBIRTH AS VIALBLE AND SUSTAINABLE GREEN  
COMMUNITIES. SPONSORED BY COMMISSIONER Henri E. Brooks**

**Updated Draft 12.7.09**

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**WHEREAS**, the severe economic slowdown the nation has endured has adversely affected most urban areas of the country, including Memphis and Shelby County; and

**WHEREAS**, the inner city area in Memphis and Shelby County, in particular, not unlike the inner city areas of many major urban areas in every region of the country, faces enormous problems and difficult challenges induced and/or exacerbated by a changing global marketplace and economic restructuring manifested by employer relocations, employer downsizing and/or plant, office and/or retail closings resulting in substantial job loss and high unemployment; and

**WHEREAS**, these difficult conditions are further exacerbated by underperforming public schools, rampant levels of crime, crumbling physical infrastructure, substandard and deteriorating housing stock and an increasing number of vacant, abandoned homes and structures in inner city neighborhoods; and

**WHEREAS**, these undesirable conditions, among other factors, contribute to a weakening of the social infrastructure and adversely affects the fabric of inner city communities

leading to a decline in the public health, safety and welfare that threatens the continued economic viability of the City of Memphis, Shelby County, and this region; and

**WHEREAS**, this Commission deems it advisable and helpful, and in the best interest of the citizens of Shelby County, that a joint City / County task force be established for the principal purpose of further identifying and evaluating these undesirable conditions that contribute to a decline in the public welfare in the inner city, and recommending effective short and long-term strategies, tools and public policy solutions for increasing inner city development, re-development, employment, revitalization and economic activity for rebirth as viable and sustainable green communities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE,**

That this Board, after careful consideration, hereby requests and urges the Council of the City of Memphis to join with this Commission in establishing a joint City / County task force comprised of a total of twenty seven (27) voting members from diverse backgrounds and sections of the community, twenty-two (22) of whom shall be individuals nominated by each member of the City Council and each member of the County Commission, respectively; two (2) of whom shall be senior citizens or retired persons, each individually nominated by the Mayor of the City of Memphis and the Mayor of Shelby County, respectively; one (1) of whom shall be a student nominated by the Superintendent of the Memphis City School District; and the remaining members shall be one (1) commissioner appointed by the Chairperson of the County Commission, and one (1) shall be a councilman appointed by the Chairperson of the Memphis

City Council. Additionally, each of the state representatives, state senators and members of the United States Congress and Senate who have constituency within the City of Memphis shall be requested and encouraged designate a citizen of the City of Memphis or staff member to serve as an *ex-officio* member of the joint City / County task force.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** Said joint City / County task force shall meet no less than monthly at rotating locations within the I-240 / I-40 Loop, or a location in the City of Memphis within one ½ (1.5) miles thereof, for a period not to exceed eighteen (18) months for the principal purpose of further identifying and evaluating these undesirable conditions that contribute to a decline in the public welfare in the inner city, and recommending effective short and long-term strategies, tools and public policy solutions for increasing inner city development, re-development, employment, revitalization and economic activity for rebirth as viable and sustainable green communities.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that said joint City / County task force shall, among other recommendations and strategies, immediately develop a land disposal **policy** ~~proposal~~ for consideration and adoption by the Council and the Commission, and immediate implementation by the Department of Research Planning and Development and such other departments or divisions as the Mayor of the City of Memphis and/or the Mayor of Shelby County shall designate, providing, at minimum, that no publicly owned land situated **within the City of Memphis** shall be conveyed, transferred or otherwise disposed of for residential **or other** development without the prior authorization and consent of the legislative body of the City of Memphis, as evidenced by a Resolution duly adopted by the Council expressly finding with

respect to each parcel to be transferred 1.) That all ~~the~~ property owners and residents within 500 feet of the parcel have received written Notice via U.S. Mail of the proposed transfer no less than 30 days prior to its conveyance, disposal or transfer; 2.) That the conveyance, disposal or transfer of the parcel or parcels is consistent with applicable zoning regulations; 3.) That the conveyance, disposal or transfer of the parcel or parcels is fundamentally consistent with established neighborhood community and economic development plans; 4.) Alternatively, that the conveyance, disposal or transfer of the parcel or parcels is fundamentally consistent with other housing and community development plans and programs for the census tract(s) wherein such parcel or parcels are situated; and 5.) That the conveyance, disposal or transfer of the parcel or parcels is to an applicant or grantee, whether an individual, corporation or other legal entity, that is not delinquent on real property taxes due and payable on any parcel situated in the City of Memphis or Shelby County owned by the applicant or grantee, or any parcel situated in the City of Memphis in which the applicant or grantee has a legal, contractual or equitable interest.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall take effect immediately, the public welfare requiring the same.

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**Joe Ford, Interim Mayor**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTEST:**

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**Clerk of County Commission**

ADOPTED: \_\_\_\_\_